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SHIFNAL RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1937.

Shifnal Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your District for the year 1937.

The Birth rate shows a satisfactory rise comparing favourably with that of the country. The Death rate is low while the Infantile Mortality rate is about half that for England and Wales.

Infectious diseases remain about the same as that for 1936. It is worth noting the presence of a case of enteric fever in the Town.

Incorporated is a summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, and I take this opportunity of thanking him for his willingness at all times to perform the duties of his office in co-operation with me.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

W. A. M. STEWART,
M.B. L.R.C.P. D.P.H.

26/5/38.

Officers.

Medical Officer of Health ...	W. A. M. STEWART.
Sanitary Inspector, Water Inspector and Sewage Foreman ...	S. HODGKISS.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in acres)	39,659
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid. 1937	7,573
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	2,192
Rateable value	£37,917
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£156-5-11
Persons per acre calculated on the population	.19

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—The district is almost entirely agricultural, and although industry is carried to its borders little penetration takes place. At Kemberton coal mining is carried on in a small scale. There is within its boundaries what must be among some of the finest park land in the country. The town of Shifnal itself preserves its rural character and has some fine old buildings. Unfortunately many of the cottages housing the working people and built to meet the needs of the past century have served their purpose and require to be replaced. The breadth of the main street, although somewhat obstructed by two island blocks of building, lends itself to redevelopment while still maintaining the pleasing character of the town. Albrighton, situated within easy reach of midland

industrialism, is striving to preserve its rural character against the gradual encroachment of suburbanism. As in other parts of the County, a large part of the district lying to the north of Albrighton has been acquired by the Government under their National Air Defence Scheme.

Vital Statistics for the year 1937.

		M.	F.	Totals	
Live Births :	Legitimate	65	63	128	Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 17.5.
	Illegitimate	2	3	5	
				133	
Still Births :	Legitimate	5	1	6	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 43
	Illegitimate	0	0		

Deaths all causes 89. Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 11.7

Deaths from puerperal causes ;

Puerperal sepsis 0.

Other Puerperal causes 1. Rate per 1000 total live and still births 7.2

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	30	4 deaths
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	31	4 ,,
Illegitmate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	0
Deaths from Cancer, all ages	14	
,, Measles, all ages	0	
,, Whooping Cough, all ages ...	0	
,, Diarrhœa (under two years of age) ...	1	

POPULATION.—The estimated Mid Year population shows an increase of 118 on the same population for 1936.

BIRTHS.—The number of live births for 1937 (133) shows an increase of 20 on 1936. The rate 17.5 compares with 15.1 for 1936 and 14.9 for England and Wales (1937).

DEATHS.—The number of deaths was 89 (M. 38 and F. 51) compared with 101 for 1936.

The crude death rate 11.7 after considering the areal comparability factor 0.84 (supplied by the Registrar-General) gives an adjusted death rate of 9.82 per 1000 population. The rate for 1936 was 11.3 and the rate for England and Wales for 1937 is 12.4.

The principal causes of death were :—

Nephritis	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	7
Heart Disease	33
Bronchitis	3
Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases ...	3
Forms of Violence (not suicide)	2
Other causes excluding infective conditions ...	17

Infective conditions :—

Influenza	3
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	1
Tuberculosis (non pulmonary)	1
Cancer	14
Other causes	1

Nothing noteworthy from the comparison of the returns for 1936 is to be found either in the diseases causing death or in their incidence.

There were no deaths from measles, whooping cough or scarlet fever.

Death rate from Cancer.	1935 ...	1.8 per 1000 population.
	1936 ...	1.4
	1937 ...	1.8
Infantile Mortality rate :—		
	1935 ...	73 per 1000 live births.
	1936 ...	44
	1937 ...	30
England and Wales	1937 ...	58

Causes of death were :—

Meningitis ...	1
Gastro-enteritis	1
Atelectasis ...	1
Prematurity ...	1

Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1—See first page of Report.

2—Laboratory facilities : Birmingham University still carries out all bacteriological and pathological examination under the County Council Scheme, as there is no County Laboratory.

3—A new modern and up-to-date ambulance has been acquired.

4—The existing cottage hospital is to be replaced. Plans have been passed and land acquired for a new building. When this scheme is completed Shifnal and District will have a modern hospital fully equipped for their needs and within convenient distance of the town.

Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE.—This is under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. Examinations have been made periodically with satisfactory results. The new supply at Stanton Road with reservoir 250,000 gallons capacity is functioning satisfactory. Certain outlying districts are supplied with water from the following adjacent supplies, Wolverhampton, Madeley and Oakengates.

The Oakengates supply, coming within the combined District is subject to local supervision.

The sewage disposal works at Albrighton and Shifnal continue to give satisfaction.

The following is an account furnished by the Surveyor of Sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

Certificates issued for water supply to new houses ...	21
Houses connected to public water supply	21
Repairs to public pumps and wells	No public pumps
New public wells	0
Private wells re-constructed or improved	7
Houses connected to public sewerage	18
Lengths of new sewers laid	0
Lengths of new water mains laid	6

1,700 yards 1 inch, Beckbury
200 yards $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, Beckbury
920 yards $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, Shifnal
900 yards $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, Albrighton
1,220 yards $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, Kemberton
1,000 yards $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, Lilleshall.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The refuse is collected at fortnightly intervals in Albrighton and Shifnal. Sanitary dustbins are gradually replacing the old open ashpits.

SANITARY INSPECTION.—The Inspector has carried out the following work in the district.

Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	645
Number of legal notices sent	9
Number of informal notices sent	63
Number of such notices complied with	56
Number of letters written	175

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices :—

a. Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	7
b. Deficient or objectionable water supply	8
c. New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	73
d. New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	15
e. Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	21
f. Offensive accumulations of all kinds	45
g. Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	15
h. Unsuitable refuse receptacles replaced with regulation dust-bins	47
i. Filthy or verminous premises or articles cleansed ...	4
j. Water courses, ditches, ponds and gutters foul or choked or silted up	3
k. Nuisances arising from tents, vans, sheds or similar structures used for human habitation	2

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis)	0
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis	7
Privies converted to water closets	16
Privies converted to earth closets	7

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—There are no public swimming baths in the district. There are privately owned ones at Apley, Albrighton and Ryton.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.—Three houses were cleansed by the use of formalin and spraying with Izal.

SCHOOLS.—No schools were closed for infectious diseases during the year.

Section D. Housing.

A general survey of the town was made, and it was found that certain houses, particularly in the High Street and Broadway, were much below standard. The position was reported and a first step taken with a view to acquiring property in High Street. It is expected by the end of 1938 to have a detailed survey of housing conditions, when future plans for re-housing will be able to be considered.

1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

1. *a.* Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	185
b. Number of Inspections made for the purpose	45
2. *a.* Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	0
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	21
4. Number of dwelling-houses, exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head, found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	50

2—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	25

3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

a. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	50
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
a—by owners	4
b—by Local Authority in default of owners ...	0
b. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	18
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
a—by owners	17
b—by Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

c. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3

d. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... 0

4—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

a.—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 60
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 71
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 304

b.—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 9

c.—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 15
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 80
Plans for new houses passed 21

Section E. **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

DAIRIES.—Periodic inspections were made in the district in certain cases following complaint.

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops for the Year ended 31st December, 1937.

Number of cowkeepers and milksellers on register 120
Number of premises—cowsheds 117
dairies 15
milkshops 3

Number of above cowkeepers and milksellers who hold licenses under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, in respect of :—

a. Establishment of producers and bottlers Tuberculin Tested 1
Accredited 27

Number of Inspections 335

Defects found 1—in cowsheds
a. floor or cubic space 0
b. ventilation 5
c. lighting 11
d. structure of floor 9
e. drainage 7
f. cleanliness 7
2—in surroundings of cowsheds 12
3—in sanitary condition of drains 9
4—in sanitary condition of milkshops ... 0
5—in water supply 0

Number of notices—verbal and written 21
Number of these notices complied with 18
Number of defects found and not yet remedied 3

Meat Inspection.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	468	0	10	1560	2500
Number inspected	380	0	9	1390	2300
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned				2	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					60 heads
Tuberculosis only					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0		0		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	3.8

1—Number of Slaughter Houses in district 7

2—Number of Persons Licensed to stun and slaughter animals in slaughter houses and knackers' yards 11

No knackers' yards.

3—Action taken with regard to inspections of slaughter houses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared :—

Regular inspection at time of slaughtering.

Slaughter houses well kept.

No stalls in district.

4—Remarks. Only best qnality of cattle slaughtered.

No slink butchers in district.

Section F. **Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.**

The incidence of Infectious disease in the district shows little change from that of 1936. The area remained remarkably free. One case of enteric fever was notified but simultaneous with the notification the case was removed to hospital outside the district. The patient had been living outside the district before the illness occured. There was no certainity of the disease being contracted locally. However investigations were made and no further cases were reported. The response to diphtheria immunisation still remains unsatisfactory. This is probably due to the low rate of this disease in the district.

Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total Cases Notified 1937	1936	Cases admitted to Hospital 1937	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	4	5	2	0
Diphtheria ...	2	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	0	0
Pneumonia ...	5	3	0	0
Erysipelas ...	1	3	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	1	0	0	0
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0	0

Age Incidence	S. Fever	Diph.	Pneum.	P. Pyrexia	Enteric	Erysipelas
5—10 years	4	0	1	0	0	0
10—15	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	0	1	0	0	0	0
20—35	0	1	1	1	0	1
35—45	0	0	2	0	0	0
45—65	0	0	0	0	1	0
65 and over	0	0	1	0	0	0

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1937.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age period.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								1
35—45	1							
44—55				1		1		

Number of cases remaining on lists at end of year.

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
13	17	13	19

Section G. Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prose-cutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	17	3	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	147	7	0
	164	10	0

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	H.M. Inspector	Prose-cutions
Want of Cleanliness	3	2	0	0
Other nuisances	7	6	0	0
	10	8	0	0